meditative science for promoting holistic human health including-physical, mental and spiritual aspects.

Free textbooks to students

†2006. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether textbooks are distributed to all the children of I to VIII standard, free of cost under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) whether textbooks are also distributed free of cost to the children belonging to general category for class VI to VIII under 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan'; and

(c) if not, by when Government will avoid such discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The guidelines on free textbooks provided under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are targeted to promote elementary education amongst the most disadvantaged sections of society, and are as follows:

(i) To all girls/Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe children at primary and upper Primary level within an upper ceiling of Rs. 150/- per child;

(ii) State Governments to continue to fund free textbooks being provided from the State budgets;

(iii) In case any State Government is partially subsidizing the cost of textbooks being supplied to children in elementary classes, then assistance under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan would be restricted to that portion of the cost of the books which is being borne by children.

Examination on demand system

2007. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to take off the examination pressure on school children, Government propose to introduce 'exams on demand' system where children can take exam as per their convenience; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.